

Former Congressman Bill Cobey

203 Oval Park Place

Chapel Hill, NC 27517

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August 29, 2007

Chairman Kevin Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Room #8B-201
Washington, DC 20544

07-16
DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Chairman Martin,

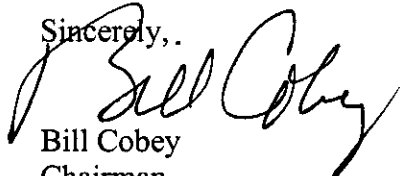
Small and independent businesses make up 99% of all American companies, providing as much as 80% of the net new job growth in our country. One of the critical tools needed to help small businesses in our country succeed is reliable access to the internet.

Unfortunately, broadband providers across the country have chosen not to expand access to many rural areas and small communities. Only 5% of towns with 10,000 or fewer people have broadband availability. The impact this has on entrepreneurs cannot be underestimated, as they lack the services provided by the internet that can help them prosper.

Docket # 07-16, currently before the FCC, details a plan to help millions in our country receive access to fast, free, reliable broadband internet access. This innovative plan will provide coverage to 95% of Americans within the next decade, ensuring that regardless of where they are located, our nation's small businesses have the tools needed to make them more efficient.

Chairman Martin, I urge you to support this proposal to ensure that American companies of all sizes have the ability to compete. By allowing this unique public-private partnership to proceed, you will be bringing forth a new era of connectivity for our citizens that have been denied access to fast, free, reliable broadband.

Sincerely,



Bill Cobey
Chairman
NC Republican Party, 1999-2003

CC: ☒ FCC Secretary Marlene Dortch
Commissioner Copps
Commissioner Adelstein
Commissioner Tate
Commissioner McDowell
Wireless Bureau Chief Fred Campbell
U.S. Senator Elizabeth Dole
U.S. Senator Richard Burr
Congressman David Price

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